



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

January 27, 2014

Our Indiana weather continues to affect our instructional days. Below are several decisions from the Department to help alleviate the concerns.

Important information regarding the *Online Statewide Readiness Test for ISTEP+ and IREAD-3*....Due to weather-related school delays and closings, the *Statewide Readiness Test* scheduled for tomorrow, January 28, will now take place on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern.

ISTEP+ testing window...

Due to unprecedented weather-related school delays and closings, Indiana Department of Education staff will discuss options regarding extending the Spring 2014 ISTEP+ *Applied Skills* testing window with the State Board of Education during our February 5th meeting. Watch for additional information via the DOE Dialogue as soon as it becomes available.

Student Achievement Plan Deadline Extension for Focus and Priority Schools: Due to the extreme weather conditions causing Indiana schools to close and/or delay for several days in January, we are extending the deadline for the Student Achievement Plan required for all focus and priority schools.

If your Student Achievement Plan is completed and ready for submission, we ask that you submit your plans to your Outreach Coordinator, so that we may begin supporting and monitoring schools. However, if your staff requires additional time to work collaboratively to develop a high-quality plan, we want to provide you the time to do so. We are extending the deadline for submission of your Student Achievement Plan to Monday, February 10, 2014. Please submit your plans to your regional Outreach Coordinator.

If you have additional questions, you may contact me at tabrown@doe.in.gov or 317-232-0524. ([See attachment](#)).

Waiver Flexibility...

The Department is sympathetic to the need of schools to be able to complete standards instruction prior to assessments. The IDOE is working within its statutory authority and looking into the possibility of further guidance regarding flexibility in the make-up of instructional time.

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: Rules for Education Preparation and Accountability, REPA III (REPA 3) [Attached is the IDOE's initial response](#) to the proposed REPA 3 published in the [Indiana Register](#) on December 18, 2013. **Educator input is important to move Indiana in the direction of attracting and retaining the best and the brightest to our profession. Online public comment is welcome** http://www.in.gov/sboe/REPA_IIIcomment.htm through January

31, 2014.

MEMORANDUM: The future of Special Education assessments (IMAST and ISTAR) will be discussed during an optional WebEx in early February. Watch for additional information coming soon in the DOE Dialogue. For more information contact: Dr. Michele Walker, Director Office of Student Assessment Telephone: 317.232.9050.

MEMORANDUM: [School Health Report](#) will be required for each school to complete at the end of this school year. To access and complete this new report, which will include vision, hearing and immunization data, school personnel will need to access the ["DOE Online"](#) data reporting website. To access this site and input data, the school nurse or his/her designee will need to have a password. *Each building* must submit a School Health Report. These reports *cannot* be combined and submitted at the corporation level, but must be done at the building level. School nurses are encouraged to obtain a password before the report is open for submission in March.

http://pod.doe.in.gov/groups/doeonlinehelp/wiki/ca848/School_Health_Reporting.htm

MEMORANDUM: [Immunizations](#). In November, the Indiana State Department of Health issued new immunization requirements for the 2014-2015 school year. Beginning in August of 2014, all students in grade 12 will require an additional MCV4 booster and all kindergarten students will require two additional Hepatitis A vaccines. Please visit the [Immunization Page](#) on the IDOE website for more information.

MEMORANDUM: The State Board of Education met Wednesday, January 15, 2014, and approved the categories for the 2014 summer school program. The [attached memorandum](#) for the 2014 summer school program includes details regarding eligible reimbursable programs, required reporting, financial provisions, and other helpful guidance for school corporations. To assist you in report preparation, a list of courses by category along with course code numbers has been posted on the Department of Education's website at www.doe.in.gov/idoeg/grants-management/summer-school. Please refer to the IDOE website Summer School page (www.doe.in.gov/idoeg/grants-management/summer-school) or contact DeVonne Richburg by email at drichburg@doe.in.gov with any questions about summer school programs.

Information From Other Agencies

4th Annual Law Day Contest and the 2nd Annual Law Day Art Contest: Students are invited to create a two-dimensional representation of an art piece (including, but not limited to, drawings, paintings, videos, photographs, graphic novels, comics etc.) that highlights the theme, "[American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters](#)." The 2014 Law Day theme calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen's right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

The [Law Day Contest](#) is open to students, student groups, and classes attending a public or private high school, or being home schooled, within the United States and in grades 9-12 or the equivalent.

The Entry Deadline is **March 7, 2014**.

Runners-up for both the individual and team categories will receive prizes with a value not to exceed \$250.00 and winners for both the individual and team categories will receive prizes with a value not to exceed \$750.00.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Public Service Team Lead, Courtenay Dunn at courtenay.r.dunn@gmail.com or ABA YLD Office Administrator, Tara Blasingame at Tara.Blasingame@americanbar.org.

Legislative Updates

Legislation The Indiana Dept. of Education is currently following that may interest Superintendents and Principals around Indiana.

[HB1319](#)

EDUCATION MATTERS (BEHNING R) Repeals a provision that establishes an expiration date of January 1, 2015, for the commission on education (commission). Provides that the commission may study and evaluate issues relating to the education of the citizens of Indiana. Changes the date, from December 1 to November 1, on which the commission's final report is due. Makes conforming amendments. Establishes the commission on unused and underutilized school facilities. Requires the department of education (department) to disaggregate from the ISTEP program test results the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students by the school corporation who achieved

a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP program test. Requires the department to develop a format for school corporations to publish, as part of the school corporation's annual report, the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students and also achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP test. [HB1349](#)
CLASSROOM EXPENSE PROGRAM (SMALTZ B) Establishes the classroom expense fund to provide advances to educators for amounts expended on classroom supplies. Provides that money from the fund be used to supplement, not replace, the money otherwise being used for classroom supplies. Provides that any money in the fund is continually appropriated.

[HB1210](#)

TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT (MOED J) Provides an educational loan repayment for a public elementary or high school teacher who: (1) was in the highest 20% of the individual's high school graduating classes or in the top twentieth percentile on the SAT or ACT examination; (2) graduated from college with at least a 3.5 grade point average; and (3) teaches science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or special education, or teaches in a critical shortage geographic area; in a public school in Indiana. Provides that at the end of the third consecutive year the teacher teaches, the commission for higher education makes a payment of \$9,000 or the balance of the teachers student loans (whichever is less) directly to the financial institution that holds the teachers student loans. 1210 was reassigned to the House Ways and Means committee.

[HB1233](#)

BACKGROUND CHECKS BY SCHOOLS (THOMPSON J) Makes changes to the definition of "expanded criminal history check". Provides that an employee of a school corporation, a charter school, or an accredited nonpublic school must receive an expanded criminal history check every five years.

[SB159](#)

CHARTER SCHOOLS (KENLEY L) Repeals a provision that prohibits the establishment of new adult high schools. Provides that, after June 30, 2014, before an authorizer may grant a charter to establish or renew a charter for an adult high school, the organizer must have the proposal to establish the charter school: (1) approved by the state board of education; and (2) reviewed by the budget committee. Requires a charter for an adult high school to contain certain requirements. Provides that, with certain exceptions, for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2014, an adult high school is not entitled to receive funding from the state unless the general assembly enacts an appropriation for the adult high school. Provides that an adult high school is subject to alternative accountability system established by the state board.

The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 159, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED

SB 159 passes committee 10 yeas 0 nays after amendments (click on SB 159 for Amendments)

[SB276](#)

MUSIC COURSES IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM. (KRUSE D) Requires each school corporation to offer music classes as part of the school corporation's curriculum. Requires each school corporation to include music ensembles for grade 7 through grade 12.

[SB331](#)

SECOND SERVICE FOR VETERANS (GLICK S) Establishes the second service for veterans program to attract veteran students to the teaching profession.

The Senate Committee on Education and Career Development, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 331, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

SB 331 passed committee with 11 Yeas 0 Nays

[SB 344](#)

SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY (Hume, L) - Establishes the division of school building physical security and safety (division) within the department of education (department). Requires the division to develop and maintain nonbinding guidelines for new buildings or facilities used in the operation or administration of a school corporation. Provides that a school corporation may request the division to make physical security or safety recommendations for the renovation, repair, or alteration of an existing building or facility used in the operation or administration of the school corporation. Requires a school corporation to consider guidelines developed by the division when developing plans and specifications for the construction, renovation, or alteration of a school facility. Provides that the department may include in the department's central clearinghouse at least one model prototype design for the construction of a school facility that complies with the guidelines developed by the division.

Current Status: 01/22/2014 Senate Education and Career Development, (Bill Scheduled for Hearing)

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